

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner is requiring restriction to one of the following groups:

Group I: Claims 1-12, drawn to method of making an actuator, classified in class 29, subclass 25.35;

Group II: Claims 13-20, drawn to monolithic multilayer actuator, classified in class 310, subclass 328; and

Group III: Claims 21-24, drawn to electrical external contact strip, classified in class 310, subclass 365.

Applicants provisionally elect Group I, Claims 1-12, drawn to a method of making an actuator, with traverse on the grounds that no adequate reasons and/or examples have been provided to support a conclusion of patentable distinctiveness between the identified groups. Also, it has not been shown that a burden exists in searching the claims of the three groups.

Moreover, the MPEP at § 803 states as follows:

“If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without a serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on its merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.”

Applicants respectfully submit that a search of all of the claims would not impose a serious burden on the Office.

Finally, the Group II Claims 13-20 have been amended herein as product by process claims dependent on the method Claims 1-12 of Group I.

Accordingly, and for the reasons presented above, Applicants submit that the Office has failed to meet the burden necessary in order to sustain the Restriction Requirement. Withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

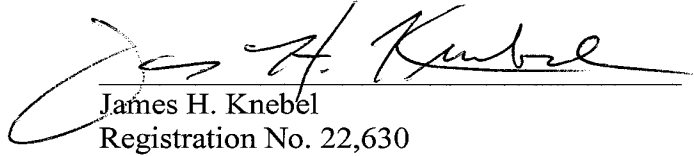
Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for examination on the merits, and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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